MAINE FARMER
AND JOURNAL OF THE USEFUL ARTS.

BY WILLIAM NOYES & CO.] "OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN." [E. HOLMES, EDITOR.

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THE MAINE FARMER

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AGRICULTURAL.

For the Maine Farmer.

A TREATISE ON THE CULTURE OF WHEAT.—NO. VI.

Practical Observations on the Culture of Wheat.

I have now communicated, in an imperfect manner, what I conceive to be the correct theory of the rust of wheat, and of its failure on old land. Such as it is, I submit it to the consideration of scientific and practical farmers. I have already written much more than I at first intended, and I had thought of leaving the subject here, and let those who may think this theory correct, apply it to practice. But many, perhaps, will regard all this, which relates only to theory, as idle speculation, who would read with much interest any thing relating to practice. And indeed theory without practice, is good for nothing. I feel a degree of reluctance in pursuing the subject farther, knowing that there are many farmers, who, from their extensive and successful practice in agriculture, are better qualified to give instruction, and to whom we ought to look for example and direction; the more especially as, since I have embraced the ideas which I now entertain, I have not had opportunity sufficiently to prove by trial the methods of culture which I recommend or suggest. But if I stop here, it may be thought that I omit the most essential part of the subject. I will, therefore, make a few observations more particularly relating to practice, according to my present views of propriety, and from the little experience I have had in the businesss of raising wheat.

If the failure of our wheat is on account of the irregularity of its growth, the point to be aimed at, and attained in order to raise a good crop, is to promote a *proportionate growth in the early stages* of this grain; or, in other words, such a growth as shall be regular and equal throughout. It may sometimes happen that the growth of wheat at first, or in its early stages, exceeds the growth afterward. We may observe this on a shallow soil, where on account of rocks or for some other reason, the ground is not loosened to a sufficient depth. In this case the heads will be short, and the kernels few and small, but not pinched or shrivelled. But except on a shoal or on a poor soil, this is seldom if ever the case. Having a soil sufficiently deep and rich, the requisite point to be attained may be resolved to this, viz:—To promote a vigorous growth of wheat at first, or in its early stages. All our operations in the culture of this grain should be conducted with a view to this point.

The art of raising wheat may be comprised in four particulars: *Good seed* properly prepared, a *suitable quantity* sown in a proper manner at the *proper season*, and on land *judiciously manured*, or in a suitable condition.

1. The first thing towards securing the requisite point of early growth, is to have good clear ripe seed for sowing. This is of more importance than many imagine. As wheat at first receives a considerable part of its nourishment from the kernel, we can hardly suppose it possible that a healthy perfect plant should proceed from a diseased imperfect seed. Seed wheat, before sowing, should be well washed and rolled in lime, ashes, or plaster. This is a preventive of smut, and is of essential benefit to the crop. Whatever we can make stick to the seed, which will serve as manure, will have a more immediate effect than if applied to the soil in any other way. We should also select that kind of wheat which is least liable to blight. The reason that rye, oats, and barley are not so much injured by the blast as wheat, is probably because the roots and stalks of these kinds of grain are stronger than those of wheat, and not so easily burst in the parts where the sap has a straitened passage; or that these parts are more capable of enlargement without injury to the growing grain. And some kinds of wheat, for this reason or some other, may be less liable to blast than others, and should be preferred.

2. Another thing of importance is that a *proper quantity of seed* is sown, so that it may be neither too thick nor too thin. If too thick, it will be crowded and not have so much benefit from the sun and air. If too thin, it will branch off and ripen unequally, and be much more likely to blast; because the lateral roots will spread and occupy too much space, thereby increasing the growth in the second stages beyond what is attained in the first. Hence we may observe that wheat, growing on the borders of fields and that standing thin in other places, will be most blasted.

3. *Timely sowing* is of much importance in raising wheat. No precise time can be specified as the proper season for sowing. This will differ in different years, and in the same year on different soils. It may be thought that by late sowing of spring wheat the growth would be proportionably greater at first than when sown early, on account of the ground being warmer. But I think the reverse would generally be the case, in regard to spring wheat on old land. When spring wheat is sown late, weeds and grass get the start, and take from the soil that part of the manure best suited to the first growth of plants. The land often becomes too dry on the surface, and the weather is generally more unfavorable near the time of its ripening. The disadvantages from all these circumstances are more than the benefit of having the land warmed by a few days more sun before sowing. Wheat should always be preceded by a fallow. Not that the land should rest a whole year without bearing a crop. This, I think, would seldom if ever be necessary or beneficial. Land to be sown with wheat in the spring, should be ploughed immediately after the crop is off the fall before, that the roots and stubble may make food for the grain the next year. These roots and stubble when ploughed in and partially decomposed, are better suited to increase the growth of the radical roots of wheat than any manure we can apply to the soil. Whatever vegetable then first grows in the spring, has the benefit of this fallow. If the sowing is delayed till the weeds and grass (which are commonly abundant in old ground) get the start, it is not a fallow for the wheat but for the weeds. The most proper time for sowing wheat in the spring, is when the land first becomes sufficiently dry and warm for vegetation. If the sowing is defered till after this time, the land should be ploughed or harrowed to prevent, as much as possible, any vegetable from growing before the wheat.—In regard to Winter Wheat, the objection of the ground being too cold for early sowing, will not apply. Winter wheat should be sown early. It will then, if the ground is well prepared, have a better chance to escape the rust than spring grain. The radical roots and lower joint will be grown in the warm part of the season, & the too rapid growth will be checked by the coldness of spring. But if the sowing is delayed till November, and then sown immediately after a crop is taken off, it will have no better chance to succeed than spring wheat; and indeed, in this case, I should prefer sowing the ground to spring grain.

4. *Judicious manuring* is of the greatest importance, and at the same time is the least attended to, and the most imperfectly understood. Undoubtedly, as has been observed in the Farmer, the different species of plants, as well as animals, must have their peculiar food. "Poultry cannot live upon dry hay; nor horses upon bugs, grasshoppers, and gravel stones."—But it is also true that this food, though of the right kind, must be in a proper state. Horses cannot live upon rotten hay

and putrid grain and vegetables- As I have before mentioned, the chief distinction I make in manure, is only in regard to the different degrees or stages of decomposition. To analyze the wheat and the soil and find the ingredients of which they are composed, and on this principle to supply the soil with the requisite ingredients, and in the right proportion, is a task I leave for wiser heads and abler hands than mine.

For the principle of judicious manuring, according to my views, I must direct your attention to the Axioms before stated. Not because I think they unfold any mystery, which you do not understand, but only to remind you of what you already know. We are apt to go far, and search deep for causes, and neglect or overlook such as are at hand, which common sense teaches every man. For this reason, men of the greatest abilities are sometimes profoundly ignorant of some things which are simply known by men of common understanding.

B. R.

THE FARMER.

WINTHROP, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 18, 1834.

TURNIP DRILL.—A friend wishes a description of a turnip drill, in order that he can make one. Any machine which will drop seeds at intervals in rows or drills may be called a drill, and there is a great variety of contrivances to effect this. Being, once, situated at a distance from any worker of tin or metal, and wishing to sow a quantity of turnips, we constructed a drill in the following manner, which, although it did not display much beauty of form or shape, answered the purpose perfectly.

We took an old quart pot which had been thrown by because the bottom had been partly rusted away—took out what remained and stopped both ends with wooden wheels which we cut out of a shingle. These we tacked in—through these we made holes in order to permit a shaft to run through. We then fastened this tin cylinder with wooden ends midway of the shaft so that it turned with it. In the middle of this cylinder small holes were punched in a line around the circumferenee sufficiently large to let a turnip seed or two out at a time and at say three inches from each other. Near one end was also punched a hole about as large as your finger, through which we poured the seed, and which we stopped with a wooden plug. On each end of the axle was attached a wheel made from a piece of plank, say one foot in diameter—one of these wheels was made fast to the axle so as to revolve with it and thereby cause the tin seed holder to turn over. The other wheel was not made fast, but turned upon it in the same manner as any wheel on its axis. These wheels could be put farther from or nearer to each other at pleasure—a sharpened stick was attached to the shaft so as to make a little furrow before the cylinder, and a piece of board with a few nails in it by way of harrow dragged on behind. Thus equipped we began to operate and sowed easily and with despatch the piece of land we wished to cultivate with turnips. By placing the other wheel in the ruts made by the wheel while sowing one row the other row will be sowed equidistant from the first.

A very simple drill was invented by Mr. J. Curtis of this town, which we will endeavor to describe in our next.

SCRAPER.

Notwithstanding our good natured friend "Anti-scraper" desires that we would commence a war of extirmination against scrapers, we take the liberty to recommend to the notice of those who wish to make it, one Improved by J. Curtis, Esq. of this town. We presume that even "Antiscraper" himself will allow that this instrument is useful in certain cases, and that it is the abuse rather than the use which he anathematizes so humourously.

Mr. Curtis makes his scraper in the following manner: A board about four feet long and say 14 inches wide, sawed or hewed, tapering from about an inch and a half at the top, to about an inch at the bottom, and bevelled at the lower edge. Here it is shod with a wide piece of iron plate rivetted to the fore side and projecting somewhat below; with five straps on the fore side rivetted to the plate at bottom and to the wood above, and running to the top of the board. There may be three straps on the back side fastened in like manner.

A tongue is attached to it, made of tough wood, say the butt of a small tree, about three inches square, and split so as to give a sufficient spread. Thus prepared, it is let into the top of the board about 1 1-2 inches, and fastened with a small bolt,or long spikes driven thro' the end of each shank of the tongue into the board.

A brace of iron is then fastened to the tongue and board in the following manner: A bar of half inch iron is fastened with one end in the crotch of the tongue above with a bolt, and sloping down, is fastened at the the other end through the centre of the board and two of the above named straps, which are necessarily in the middle of the board—this brace, passing through the board, may be fastened at the back side with a nut or burr. A pair of handles bent like those of a plough, riveted to the back side of the board and rising about 2 1-2 feet, completes the scraper. In attaching the tongue to the board, care should be taken that the edge ranges forward at an angle of 8 or 10 degrees.—The particular advantages of this construction of the scraper are, 1, By the application of the brace much less wood is necessary to give it strength, than in the usual way of making them. 2, The handles, constructed as above, put it completely in the power of one man to manage it, who is able to leave the earth gradually, or to scrape as he proceeds. A man at the handles, one yoke of oxen and a driver, will do more effectuaul service with this implement than two men, a driver and two yoke of oxen with the commonly constructed cumbrous concern generally used.

It is very useful in rounding off or turnpiking roads where gravel has been carted in and left in large heaps; and it is also useful in scraping away banks, &. where the dirt is to be removed but a short distance.

CHINESE MULBERRY OR MORUS MULTICAULIS IN MAINE.

We think that there is no doubt that the Chinese Mulberry or Morus Multicaulis will endure the climate of Maine. The following experiment at any rate speaks well for it. J. Wingate, Esq., of Windsor, set out in his garden last autumn five of the MORUS MULTICAULIS, obtained from Mr. Wm. Kenrick's Nursery, in Newton, Mass. They arrived in November, and were set out quite late in that month. Only one of them however took root, and that one, we have been credibly informed, is alive and looks promising. It had no protection during the winter. We are inclined to believe that if cold weather will destroy them, that one would have died during the last winter; for there was but little snow, and we had some days in which the thermometer was 178 below zero. The snow also went off early, and we have had warm days and cold nights since. We look upon this fact as worth thousands of dollars to Maine, and we advise all who are entering into the silk business to procure some of those trees. They will be a great acquisition.

For the Maine Farmer.

UNION OF CORRESPONDENTS—AGRICULTURAL PREMIUMS, &c.

MR. HOLMES:—It seems probable, from what I have observed in the last Farmer, that the union proposed by me sometime since, may be effected. I shall rejoice if it be; for I have not the least doubt that our farmers have enough of talent and enterprise to accomplish any thing that can be desired, if any means can be devised to induce them to bring before the public those rich stores of experience which very many possess. I know no way to effect this without systematic efforts.

I noticed in the last Farmer an observation of a correspondent over the signature of "W," who says that he has been "an attentive observer of the growth of wheat on old land for more than thirty years." Well, I want to read more of his "SHORT AND SWEET" stories in the Farmer. A man who has attentively considered any subject for thirty years, and corrected this with diligent if not extensive reading, must have acquired a great deal of knowledge. And though I respect a simple statement, the result of his experience as expressed in the three short rules he has given us; I should undoubtedly be much better pleased if he would give us from time to time some of the FACTS upon which these opinions are founded.

Our Agricultural Societies, though exceedingly useful, do not seem to me to occupy the whole ground which associations for improvement in agricultural knowledge ought to occupy. The offer of premiums for the greatest crops of vegetables, is only calculated to bring the knowledge of the successful results, and the means by which they are obtained, before the public. But how many unsuccessful results are there, a knowledge of which would be as useful to the public as those which are the most successful.

Again, the information that they give to us

comes mostly at once. It comes like the 'Dance of the Stars," last year, brilliant indeed, and showy for a short time, and the gloom then returns apparently with darker shades than before. Indeed the whole process seems to be calculated to keep back every thing that will not sound lofty ; for, although the committees are instructed to keep public utility in view in awarding premiums on animals, &c., yet such is our love of disinction, that at a public exhibition we should be hardly willing to exhibit a mean looking animal, for instance a cow, though it could be demonstrably proved that she had been twice the profit according to the expense of keeping, that some others had. There is another point in which our agricultural societies fail. They present no encouragement to those who would be willing to aid the cause with their pens or in some other manner, but feel unable to join a society and pay the annual assessments. There are hundreds, no doubt in this State, who might render essential service to the public in some such way, but could not well afford to render pecuniary assistance.

Besides, some means ought to be devised to bring Farmers in different sections of the State acquainted with each other. This I think the proposed Union will do. Let the annual meeting be in the winter, say in the month of January when Farmers can best afford the time.

How pleasant would it be to meet each other at some convenient place and spend a short time after the severe labors of the year were closed, in recounting the various means by which improvements had been effected, and the results which had been produced by their plans and industry. Yours, &c.

Peru, April 10th, 1834. J. H. J.

For the Maine Farmer.

MANURE.—No. 3.

The practice of manuring corn in the hill has been so long established and so universally adopted, that to come forward now and question its utility, will be considered by some as a vain, foolish and unnecessary speculation.—But I hope that those, who are not wholly guided by the customs of their forefathers and the prejudices ingendered thereby, will give me a candid hearing. In old cultivated districts, where manuring has been but very little attended to, lands often become worn out and unproductive. What is to be done ? Why, break up and plant to corn ; we do so—we manure in the hill, and if the shovel-full happens to be a large one, we suppose the land receives a "master dressing," judging always by the shovel-full and not by the number of loads to the acre.

If the Spring is a very wet one, the manure on some lands, absorbs more moisture and retains it longer than the same bulk of earth, consequently our seed often rots before sprouting, or is greatly retarded in its early growth.

If the season is too dry, the manure cakes and becomes hard, and is almost as impervious to the tender roots as a rock.

Supposing, however, the season neither too wet nor too dry, but "just the thing," what is the result ? Why, the corn comes forth rapidly and promises, in its early stages, an abundant crop; but soon a period arrives when the corn is "filling out," in which it requires an undiminished supply of heat and nourishment from the earth to support the "blade and the ear and the full corn in the ear—" the roots are spreading in all directions in search, as it were, after more nourishing food, and find none, for the very best reason in the world, there is none ; the nights are growing longer, of course colder ; the sun is gradually withdrawing its genial influence ; the cold season approaching, and the manure in the hill was exhausted long ago. Thus every circumstance which is so absolutely necessary to the rapid and luxuriant growth of corn in its ripening season, is now withdrawn in its utmost need. The corn dwindles, and if it escapes a frost it ripens off, or rather dries off; and in harvest some ears are half filled out, some two thirds, and some three fourths—hence the universal cry "How is your corn ?" "Why, middling but not very well filled out."

But this is not all. We have seen pretty clearly I think that the quantity of manure applied the first season, is so sure to be exhausted that no dependance can be placed in its aid, in the production of a second crop, still the same process is followed. Thus we "plant and gather" for two or three years, and then seed down to grass, and should there be a greater burden than previous to breaking up, it is to be attributed, not to the manure, but to the stirring of the land and the decomposition of vegetable matter incidentally left upon it ; and in a short time our soil is again run out, and again we break up and plant. Thus hundreds of acres of land in this State are managed, without improving the soil in the least, or increasing the value of our farms one farthing.

I am far from wishing, however, to abolish entirely the practice of manuring corn in the hill ; on the contrary I would recommend a small quantity of finely decomposed manure as a most valuable incentive to its early growth. But I believe that too much dependence is placed upon this practice ; that its effect upon the growth of corn and subsequent crops is not properly considered ; that when we have manured in the hill, we are too apt to consider that all is done that can be done ; and here we stop short in the midst of error. Therefore, in order that we may be adding annually to the richness of the soil, and at the same time receiving a profitable crop as the consequent reward of our labor, we ought to make a free and abundant use of manure, by spreading and ploughing it in that it may pervade every part of the soil to which the roots have access.

This application of manure will render the land light, loose and warm and give additional facilities to the roots to spread themselves thro' every part of the soil ; furnishing a plentiful supply of nutriment at all times, and more especially when it is mostly needed.

Repeated applications of this kind will soon place the soil in a high state of cultivation, and should it become necessary to seed it to grass, it will yield a burden amply sufficient to reward the hubsandman for his labor, and that for a number of years in succession.

I am led therefore in conclusion of this number, to make the following deductions from what has been advanced upon this subject thus far.

1 That the quantity of manure applied to the hill is such, that in most cases its nourishing properties become exhausted before the crop arrives at maturity, and

2 That the crop in consequence of this fact, receives no aid from the manure at the very season when it mostly requires it.

3 That no dependence can be placed in its aid in a subsequent crop.

4 That manure, bountifully mixed with the soil, has a good effect in rendering it light, loose and warm, but when applied to the hill only, it has but little if any benefit in this respect.

5 That impoverished and worn out lands cannot be brought into a high state of cultivation by any reasonable amount of manure when applied exclusively to the hill.

April 10th. CAROLUS.

For the Maine Farmer.

MANURE.

Mr. Editor,—I have seen in some agricultural paper, a calculation that a sheep, yarded on a piece of arable land, would by her droppings in one night, prepare, as to manure, three feet of such land for any useful crop. But I have supposed the calculation might be too high, as to the quantity of land that a single sheep would dung sufficiently in a night. Let it be considered certain that one sheep will abundantly manure half a yard, or 1½ feet square in a night ; and let it be supposed that there are 4000 sheep in this town, and that they would manure well 2000 feet of land in a night, from the first of June or shearing time, to the first of November in each year. Then let it be supposed that very few if any of these 4000 sheep are brought by a boy on to arable land ploughed and harrowed once a week, and see if we farmers ever think of the maxim that a penny saved is as good as one earned. For if sheep are left in their pasture during the summer, this manure is so fine that most or all of its virtue goes off by exhalation to manure the air, where no one can raise turnips, wheat, corn, or any other valuable article for our use ; and I should rather breathe the air destitute of manure than saturated with it.

Winthrop, April 11, 1834. Calculator.

N. B. If we yard our sheep we may have turnips in plenty—no manure exceeds that from sheep for turnips.

For the Maine Farmer.

Mr. Holmes: Believing as I do, that whatever relates to agriculture or the keeping of stock, if useful, although not of the first magnitude, should be made public, that one another's experience may benefit the whole farming interest. In view of ideas similar to these, I will state that Ruta Baga, even in a raw state, cut up with a shovel, will keep swine well through the winter. A friend of mine tried it the past winter with an old sow, and she improved largely, although poor in November, by reason of having recently had a numerous litter of pigs ; yet now, say the first of April, she is tolerable pork. She has eat nothing but raw ruta baga all this time, except as a change, some raw potatoes.

As we farmers can raise on a given quantity of land double the quantity of this vegetable to that of potatoes, I thought it might be useful, at least in a small degree. C. F.

For the Maine Farmer.

Mr. Holmes,—Much has been said and written respecting the indispensable importance of Manure in farming, in your paper ; yet I notice a very bad and wasteful practice among farmers, in permitting their sheep to lay in their pastures through the Summer ; whereas if the owners would use some refuse boards and enclose say an acre of arable land, and plough and harrow it, a week from shearing time, 50 sheep would prepare it in season for a fine crop of the common flat Turnips. After they are sowed, the 50 sheep would prepare another acre well for wheat, rye, oats, or any crop the next season.

Winthrop, April, 1834.

For the Maine Farmer.

SWINE.

Mr. Editor,—I have been told that a breed of Swine will very soon degenerate if a male and female of the same litter be put together. Will some of your experienced readers give me light on the subject? If this is the fact it is of general importance to be known.

Bradford, March 25, 1834. M. S.

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Maine Farmer.

HINTS TO ROAD SURVEYORS.

Mr. Holmes,—Under the head of "Hints to Young Surveyors," in your paper of last week, I notice some errors, so gross and yet so common, that I cannot forbear a few comments. The writer says, "A good plough and a good scraper are implements of the first importance in repairing roads." A careful and attentive observation of the idea contained in this "hint" for many years, has resulted in the firmest conviction, that to the use of the plough and scraper must be attributed much of the bad state of our roads during the rainy seasons of the year, and that to these instruments are we indebted—or rather these implements are indebted to the people of this State for at least half of the annual expenditure upon the highways. That a PLOUGH is indispensable to the making of NEW roads, and a SCRAPER sometimes useful, I admit. I also admit, that a plough is SOMETIMES useful and necessary in repairing OLD roads; but a scraper is very seldom useful, never necessary. Indeed, I am fully persuaded that were the scraper banished from the land, tens of thousands of dollars would be annually saved—the roads would become much better—thousands of horses, could they give utterance to their sentiments, would bless the deed; and many a luckless wight now doomed to flounder in unfathomable mud SCRAPED from the gutters and muck holes on to the before solid earth, would rejoice with joy unspeakable at his salvation from a dirty SCRAPE. I pray you, Mr. Editor, declare a war of extirmination against this "monster," the scraper.

Again, "Old hollow, hard trodden roads should be broke up the whole width," says the writer. Now I say, 'hard trodden roads' should NOT be broken up. By all means avoid such a casualty. Nine times out of ten, when such a deed is done, the Surveyor who does it should be condemned to drag a loaded wagon, night and day, during the months of April and November, for at least ten years, over the road he has thus MENDED.

To this rage for "breaking up old hard trodden roads," may we partly impute the "muddy" state of our highways in the spring and fall.

You perceive, Mr Editor, that I am utterly opposed to all manner of scrapes, "scrapers," and "scraping; and from the great abuse of the plough on the roads, I should be willing to banish that instrument also, were it not for its usefulness in the field, its proper and legitimate sphere of action.

The foregoing are pretty broad "hints" I allow, Mr. Editor; but it is necessary sometimes to give broad hints to disagreeable intruders, and even a kick is now and then admissable.

With your leave, Mr. "Maine Farmer," I will submit a few hints to "young Surveyors" and old ones too.

First. Seek a gravel pit somewhere within your district, and don't fear to go a mile from it, if none is to be found in your precinct.

Second. Suitably "armed and equipped," with carts, pickaxes, and shovels, proceed to the sand pit, and from thence dig and carry away a sufficiency of its "deposites" to fill up the holes and gutters in the road, carefully spreading the same, so that where you find ONE hole you don't leave TWO. If, however, you can find materials of proper solidity by the side of the road, you may run the plough through it, and after having shovelled the soil into the adjoining fields, you may use the dry and hard material below for the purpose of filling up the aforesaid holes and gutters.

Third. If you find a place in the road somewhat "hollow" but "hard trodden," run the plough upon the outer ridges once or twice and then, with pickaxe, spade, and shovel, smooth it down, so as to give the proper shape to the road, that is, SLIGHTLY convex, If the earth thus removed from the sides, be of the proper material, devoid of soil or muck, throw it into the middle of the road until the proper form is obtained, otherwise throw into the field as before directed.

Fourth. Wherever you find gridiron causways, or stones more than 5 or 6 inches in diameter, loose or partially imbedded, DIG THEM OUT, fill up the cavities with gravel, and by no means attempt to cover them with soil, as you do your potatoes when planting. They won't grow if you do,—I mistake—they WILL BE SURE TO GROW, the first rain that occurs.

Fifthly. See well to your water courses and drains. Never allow water to stand in the drains by the side of the roads. This is of the first importance. It is in vain to heap up the road if you allow the water to stand in pools by the side of it.

Finally, Banish Rum and the "Scraper—" smooth your work well, and watch the first beginnings of holes and gutters. Here, as in other matters, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of remedy." These brief "hints" if followed out, will result in smooth and solid roads, saving much money, and preventing aching bones and broken carriages.

ANTI-SCRAPER.

For the Maine Farmer.

RUST IN WHEAT.

Mr. Holmes,—The shortest distance between any two points, is always a straight line.

This is as true in the pursuit of agricultural knowledge as any thing else. Since the appearance of B. R's first number upon the subject of rust in wheat, I have been ransacking all the old papers that I could find—have examined every theory upon this subject, and have disposed of them all to my own satisfaction by levelling them all to the ground. The object with me, now is, to find the straight line between the two points, by which points, I mean the cause and the effect with regard to this disease.

What then is the cause? To ascertain this, I propose to consider, first the time when this disease takes place, and the particular circumstances most generally or frequently attending it. As to the time, I believe that all agree, it is between the period of blossoming and the perfection of the kernel in the ear. Some of the circumstances are warm and sultry weather—the use of too great a quantity of animal manure—lodging of the stalks of wheat—being located in a confined situation—severe storms of rain—sudden changes of weather, &c. To these we may add that late sown grain is generally considered, other things being equal, the most subject to rust, and also that old land is more liable to it than new. I will also add to these the contraction of the stalk at the lower joint, and the other appearances mentioned by B. R., which though I do not recollect to have seen in any author, I have no doubt attend it sometimes and perhaps always. All these I shall consider as proved facts. Now for the theory, which was the second thing that I proposed to consider, the better to understand what may follow after.

I consider plants as having distinct classes of sap vessels for different purposes. I will explain my ideas by refering to the organization of an animal. In the animal system you have the veins and arteries. These begin to perform their office in the earliest stages of animal life, and when these are entirely obstructed the animal dies in every part. Some other vessels appear to be closely connected with these, and perhaps begin to perform their office at the time they do—perform when they do, and cease their action when they cease theirs. But there are classes of vessels destined for a particular purpose which may be totally obstructed and the animal not die, though perhaps other parts may severally suffer by what is sometimes called sympathy. The milk vessels of animals are of this number, some others destined for a kindred purpose, which though attended with more danger from obstructions may nevertheless at one period of life cease to perform their functions and the animal still survive.

That I should assert that there is an analagous organization in plants, may appear exceedingly foolish to some. But still I think that there are good reasons for believing it.—That plants have sexual qualities no person of observation, reading, and sober reflection I think will deny. Why not then have an organization peculiarly adapted to these qualities? The time when the disease of rust takes place in wheat and the consequences of it seem to me strongly to indicate it. This seems to be a critical period in the life of the plant—changes of weather affect it in a manner which they do not at other times: and look a moment at its effects. Does the whole plant die? No. Even the bottom leaves on the wheat stalk, as B. R. says, remain green longer in the diseased stalk of wheat then in the healthy, as if waiting for nature to perfect her work above. But the great failure is in perfecting the seed. I therefore consider the immediate cause of this disease to be AN OBSTRUCTION OF THE SAP IN THAT CLASS OF VESSELS DESTINED BY PROVIEENCE TO PRODUCE AND NOURISH THE SEED. And, though the most striking effects are found in the ear, yet it effects by sympathy every part; and also vice versa disorder in the general system of the plant, may be one concurring cause in affecting those belonging to the ear.

But perhaps some one will say, if this be the case, why does the rust generally appear first on the lower leaves? I answer that these vessels may extend as low or even lower than where the rust first appears. The milk vessels proceeding from the udder of a cow, certainly extend to quite a distance, and so may the vessels destined to produce the seed in wheat. It is possible that this theory, if published, may induce discussion, and many inquiries, I may, very likely, be asked why rust more generally appears where animal manure is used in great plenty? One reason that I will give to account for this cause is; it causes great luxuriance of growth to the stalk, which is not favorable to the greatest perfection of seed in scarcely any plant. Another reason may be assigned which I think very probable, viz: That animal manure frequently contains vast quantities of the eggs of insects, which in warm and moist weather may increase to a great degree, and by feeding on the juice of the plant may produce a disease in the system generally, which may, in concurrence with the proximate cause, produce this disease where it would not otherwise appear. I am very suspicious that the appearance described by B. R., as seen in the roots of diseased wheat, may be produced by this cause. He did not see them to be sure. Well, it would not be incredible even if there should be millions of little creatures there feeding on the aliment of the plant, which the unaided eye of man could not discover. I have no doubt if this subject were well looked into

by those who have the means, we might well be alarmed at the facts that would be discovered. Perhaps it might be found that some of these diminutive tribes lodged their eggs under the leaves, or punctured the leaves or the stalk and there deposited them, to be carried from thence to the barn, and thence back to the field to produce the same mischief over again. Another very probable reason, to me at least, why old lands are less certain to produce wheat is, that from the cause last mentioned, as well as many others concurring, a sickly race of plants is propagated from year to year, brought into existence with a sickly constitution, and soon meeting with other causes, arising from weather, insects, &c. inevitably become diseased. Under such circumstances it would seem almost a miracle to have a good crop of wheat.

I have one more idea to communicate on the subject of manures generally—viz: That all or nearly all the manure mentioned as peculiarly favorable in their effects in regard to rust in wheat, such as lime, ashes, fish manure or in other words train oil, are excellent to prevent the depredations of insects. Then while they operate as a manure, they destroy, at the same time, those insects which feast on the juices of the plant.

If, Mr. Editor, you think these ideas worth publishing, they are at your disposal. I would merely observe that the theory above given, is the only one which appears any way satisfactory to me. If it is not founded in fact, the sooner that it is overthrown the better; and I sincerely hope that it will have one effect if none other, viz: to induce your able correspondent B. R. to continue and others to commence a course of actual experiments in raising wheat, and carefully noting the results, and giving them to the public. Perhaps this course continued five years might settle the question. Is it not worth this pains? I will be one of the number if life and health are spared

Peru, March 31, 1834. J. H. J.

From the Genesee Farmer.

CATTLE HUSBANDRY.

[*Continued from page* 102.]

Known as Durham, Teeswater, Holderness, Improved Short Horns, &c.

As the prices at which Mr Colling's stock sold affords the best criterion of its value, and as the names of the animals may be considered as constituting a sort of *Herd Book*, by which the pedigree of individuals may be appreciated, we give the catalogue of the sale entire, omitting only the names of the purchasers. The sale took place Oct. 11, 1810:

COWS.

Names.	*Out of.*	*Got by.*	*Cow's Age.*	*Sold for Bulled by.*	*Gu.*
Cherry	Old Cherry	Favorite	11	Comet	83
Kate		Comet	4	Mayduke	35
Peeress	Cherry	Favorite	5	Comet	170
Countess	Lady	Cupid	9	do.	400
Celina	Countess	Favorite	5	Petrarch	200
Johanna	Johanna	do.	4	do.	130
Lady	Old Phoenix	A grandson of Lord Bolingbroke	14	Comet	206
Catheline	A daughter of the dam of Phoenix	Washington	8	Comet	150
Laura	Lady	Favorite	4	do.	210
Lily	Daisy	Comet	3	Mayduke	410
Daisy	Old Daisy	A grandson of Favorite	6	Comet	140
Cora	Countess	Favorite	4	Petrarch	70
Beauty	Miss Washington	Marsh	4	Comet	120
Red rose	Eliza	Comet	4	Mayduke	45
Flora		do	3	do	70
Miss Peggy		A son of Favorite	3	Comet	69
Magdalene	A heifer by Washington	Comet	3	Comet	170

BULLS.

Names.	*Out of.*	*Got by*	*Age*	*Gu.*
Comet	Phoenix	Favorite	6	1000
Yarborough		Favorite	9	55
Major	Lady	Comet	3	200
Mayduke	Cherry	do.	3	145
Petrarch	Old Venus	do.	2	365
Northumberland		Favorite	2	80
Alfred	Venus	Comet	1	110
Duke	Dutchess	do	1	105
Alexander	Cora	do	1	63
Ossian	Magdalene	Favorite	1	76
Harold	Red Rose	Windson	1	50

BULL CALVES.—*Under one year old.*

Names.	*Out of.*	*Got by.*	*Gu.*
Ketton	Cherry	Comet	50
Young Favorite	Countess	do	140
Geerse	Lady	do	130
Sir Dimple	Daisy	do	90
Narcissus	Flora	do	15
Albion	Beauty	do	60
Cecil	Peeress	do	170

HEIFERS.

Names.	*Out of.*	*Got by.*	*Age.*	*Gu*
Phoebe	Dam by Favorite	Comet	3	105
Young Dutchess	do	do	2	188
Young Laura	Laura	do	2	101
Young Countess	Countess	do	2	206
Lucy	Dam by Washington	do	2	132
Charlotte	Catheline	do	1	136
Johannah	Johannah	do	1	35

HEIFER CALVES—*Under one year old.*

Names.	*Out of.*	*Got by.*	*Gu.*
Lucilla	Laura	Comet	106
Calista	Cora	do	50
White Rose	Lily	Yarbro'	85
Ruby	Red Rose	do	50
Cowslip		Comet	25

Thus it would seem that the *true* improved Short Horns are a cross of the large Teeswater with the smaller Galloway breeds made by Mr. C. Colling, and the pedigree of these animals is traced back by the breeders to some one of the animals named in the preceeding list. Robert, as well as Charles Colling, was an early breeder of this improved stock. His stock was sold in 1818 when the following great prices was obtained for some of his cattle, a sufficient proof of the estimation in which they were held:

One 2 year old Cow, sold for 331 guineas.
One 4 year old Cow, do 300 do
One 5 year old Cow, do 370 do
One 1 year old Bull, calf, 270 do
One 4 year old Bull, do 631 do

It appears by the catalogue, with printed prices affixed, that

34 Cows	sold for	4141	guineas
17 Heifers	do	1287	do
6 Bulls	do	1343	do
4 Bull Calves	do	713	do
61 Head of cattle	do	7484	do

The great improvement effected by the Messrs Colling, was the symmetry of form, and the disposition to feed rapidly. Every perfection in cattle, whether it be one of form, of quality of flesh, or disposition to fatten, or to yield milk—can be retained only by the breeder's devoted attention to his particular object; and every advance towards one point has been tantamount to receding from another; because the same proceeding which tends to enhance a particular quality, will also enhance a defect, provided such defect was of previous existence. It is admitted that the improved breeds do not give such a *quantity* of milk as the unimproved, or Holderness; yet it is maintained that the milk of the former is of better quality and yields as much *butter*. Col. Powell, of Philadelphia, obtained from an improved short horn, at the rate of 20 lbs. of butter per week, though undoubtedly under high keeping. It is contended that the cows unite the two qualities of taking flesh and giving milk to a degree of perfection, *but not at the same time*;—they succeed to each other, and at the period when it suits the dairy women they should. It is well to remark, that the counties of Durham and York have been the principle theatre of short horn excellence, whether of old or new breeds. Hence the term of Yorkshire or Durham cattle is often applied to both.

CRITERION OF A GOOD YORKSHIRE COW.

"A milch cow, good for the pail as long as she is wanted, and then quickly got into a marketable condition, should have a long and rather small head; a large headed cow will seldom fatten or yield much milk. The eye should be bright, yet with a peculiar placidness and quietness of expression: the chaps thin, and the horns small. The neck should not be so thin as that which common opinion has given to the milch cow. It may be thin towards the head, but it must soon begin to thicken, and especially when it approaches the shoulder. The dewlap should be small; the breast, if not so wide as in some that have an unusual dispostion to fatten, yet very far from being narrow, and it should project before the legs; the chine, to a certain degree, fleshy, and even inclining to fullness; the girth behind the shoulder should be deeper than it is usually found in the Short Horn; the ribs should spread out wide so as to give as globular a form as possible to the carcase, and each should project further than the preceding one to the very loins, giving, if after all the milch cow must be a little wider below than above, yet as much breadth as can possibly be afforded to the more valuable parts. She should be well formed across the hips and on the rump, and with greater length there than the milker generally possesses; or if a little too short, not too heavy. If she stands a little long on the legs it must not be too long. The thighs somewhat thin with a slight tendency to crookedness, or being sickle-hammed behind; the tail thick at the upper part, but tapering below; and she should have a mellow hide, and little coarse hair. Common consent has given to her large milk veins; and although the subcutaneous or milk veins has nothing to do with the udder, but conveys the blood from the fore part of the chest and sides to the inguinal vein, yet a large milk vein certainly indicates a strongly developed vascular system—one favorable to secretion generally, and to that of the milk among the rest.

"The last essential in a milch cow that we shall mention is the udder, rather inclining to be large in proportion to the size of the animal, but not too large. It must be sufficiently capacious to contain the proper quantity of milk, but not too bulky; lest it should thicken and become loaded with fat. The skin of the udder should be thin, and free from lumps in every part of it. The teats should be of moderate size; at equal distances from each other every way; and of equal size from the udder to nearly the end, when they should run to a kind of point. When they are too large near the udder, they permit the milk to flow down too freely from the bag, and lodge in in them; and when they are too broad in the extremity, the orifice is often so large that the cow cannot retain her milk after the bag begins to be full and heavy. The udder should be of nearly equal size before and behind, or, if there is any difference, it should be broader and fuller before than behind.

"The quantity of milk given by some of these cows is very great. It is by no means uncommon for them, in the beginning of summer, to yield 30 quarts a day: there are rare instances of their having given 36 quarts; but the average measure may be estimated at 22 or 24 quarts. It is said that this milk does not yield a proportionate quantity of butter; and that although these cows may be valuable where the sale of milk is the prime object, they will not answer for the dairy.

"That their milk does not contain the same proportionate quantity of butter as that from the Long Horns, the Scotch cattle, or the Devons, is probably true; but we have reason to believe that the difference has been much exaggerated, and is more than compensated by the additional quantity of milk."

It is said that the milk increases in richness as the cows grow older. It is conceded on all hands that the Short Horns consume more food than any other breed.

The best *milk* breed of cattle are probably those selected by the London milkmen. The number of these is estimated at 12,000. The market price of a good dairy cow is 20*l*. ($88.) They are with very few exceptions the Short Horn breed,—the Holderness or Yorkshire cow (described above) and almost invariably with a cross of the improved Durham blood. They are selected for their

qualities for milk, as well as aptness to fatten; for they are rarely suffered to breed while in the dairyman's possession. When they cease to give a remunerating quanity of milk they are fattened and sold to the butcher. This is the case when they cease to give four quarts a day. The cows are principally kept constantly housed—their food and water being snpplied in the stable, and are turned out to fatten in yards. They are fed principally with brewer's grains, to which cut clover and roots are added when these can be had a reasonable price; oil cake is added to fattec. The grains are deposited in pits,lined with brick work set in cement, from ten to twenty feet deep, firmly trodden down, and covered nine inches with a layer of moist earth, to keep out the rain and frost in winter and heat in summer. They are thus preserved for all season of year. They are sometimes kept in these two years without being touched. A very accurate experiment was made by the Duke of Bedford, on the fattening quality of linseed, boiled and unboiled, in which the simple unboiled linseed fattened the animals more expeditiously than any cooked preparation of that seed. The average product of the London dairyman's cows is a little over nine quarts a day.

Although we have fulfilled the task we proposed, of descriping the Devon and Short Horned cattle of Great Britain, we think it may not be uninteresting, particularly to cattle breeders, to take a brief notice of the *Long Horns*, and *Hornless* or *Polled* breeds, which form a considerable portion of the farm stock there, and from which our native breeds have in a great measure proceeded.

While the *Short Horns* were principally confined to Durham and York; and the *Middle Horns*, including the Devon, Hereford Sussex, Welch and Scotch breeds, spread over the south, the north and a part of the east, the *Long Horn* cattle attracted the attention of the midland and some of the western districts of Great Britain. The first improvement noticed in this breed were made by Linton and Webster, but the greatest improvement was made by the celebrated Bakewel), of Dishley, in Leicestershire, whose improved cattle were sometimes denominated the Dishley breed. The points which this great breeder aimed at were *beauty of form*; next *utility* of form in distinction from *beauty* of form; 3. quality of flesh; and lastly, *fattening property*. Many years did not pass before his stock was unrivalled for the roundness of its form, the smallness of its bone and its aptitude to acquire external fat; while they were small consumers of food in proportion to :her size; but at the same time their quality as milkers became sensibly diminished. The *grazier* could not too highly value the Dishley long horn; but the *dairyman*, and *little farmer* cling to the old breed as most useful to their purpose. It was his grand maxim, that the bones of an animal intended for food could not be too small, and that the fat being the most valuable part of the carcase, it would consequently not be too abundant.

The *polled* or hornless are in repute in particular districts. The Galloway, from which Colling obtainad a cross with the large Teeswater, as the basis of his improved Short Horns, is raised in vast herds in some parts of Scotland, and driven in the fall to the northern countries of England, where they are fattened for the London market. They are a hardy and docile race, yielding the fihest meat in the British market. The cows are not good milkers; bnt though the quantity is small, it is rich in quality. A cow that gives 12 to 16 quarts a day is esteemed a great milker,that quantity produces more than a pound and a half of butter. The average for the summer is not more than six or eight quarts.

The Galloway cattle are straight and broad in the back, aud nearly level from the head to the rump. They are round in the ribs, and also between the shoulders and the ribs, and the ribs and the loins. They are broad in the loins without any large projecting hip bones. In roundness of barrel and fulness of ribs they will compare with any breed, and also in the proportion which the loins bear to the back bone, or protuberances of the ribs. When viewed from above, the whole body appears beautifully rounded like the longitudinal section of a roller. They are long in the quarters and ribs, and deep in the chest, but not broad in the breast, short in leg, and moderately fine in the shank bones. There is no breed so large and muscular above the knee, while there is more room for the deep, broad and capacious chest. He is clean, not fine and slender, but well proportioned in the neck and chaps. The neck of the bull is thick almost to a fault. The head heavy, the eyes not prominent, the ears large, rough and full of long hairs on the inside. Skin mellow, and of a medium thickness, clothed with long, soft and silky hair. The prevailing color black, but some are brindled brown. A beautiful hiefer of the Galloway breed was slaughtered at Smithfield, which weighed 1920 pounds. 20 to twenty five thousand cattle are annually driven to England for feeding. The expense of driving them 400 miles is from 1*l*. to 1*l*. 4*s* per head. We have the following amusing account of the economy of a Scotch drovier. "A mountainer will travel from fair to fair, for thirtv miles round with no other food than the oaten cake he carries with him, and what requires neither fire, table, nor other instrument to use. He will lay out the whole, or perhaps treble to all he is worth, in the purchase of 30 to 100 head of cattle, with which, when collected, he sets out for England, a country with the roads, manners and inhabitants of which he is totally unacquainted. In this journey he scarce ever goes into a house, sleeps but little, and then generally in the open air, and lives chiefly upon his favorite oaten bread. If he fail of disposing of his cattle at the fair of Carlisle, he is probably ruined, and has to begin the world, as he terms it, over again. If he succeeds, he returns home only to commence a new wandering, and a new labor, and is ready in about a month perhaps to set out again for England."

The Norfolk cattle are generally of the polled breed. They have supplanted here the middle horns. A warmer climate and richer soil have rendered them superior to the Galloway in size, but not in quality.

In Sussex, the polled breed has becn manifestly improved, particularly for the dairy. In the height of the season,some of these cows will give as much as eight gallons of milk in a day,and six gallons is not an unusual quantity. Three of them produced 683 lbs. butter from June to November. A Suffolk cow will make 150 lbs. butter, and 75 whey cheese in a season. They are of small size, and consume comparatively little food.

The *Alderney* cattle are of French origin. The cows are diminutive in size, but are remarkable for the richness of their milk, and the great quantity of butter which it produces.

The *Nagore* cattle are a species lately introduced into England from interior India. They are dissimilar in appearance to any hitherto known breed. The figure of the bull in the work before us, has a large lump upon the back over the fore shoulders, and an enormous dewlap dropping from the neck and the chaps to the lower point of the brisket. They are considered the highest breed of Indian cattle. They are used in India by the higher order to draw their state carriages and are much valued for their size, speed and endurance, and sell at very high prices. They will travel fifteen or sixteen hours in a day, at the rate of six miles an hour. A pair reached England in 1829. Two calves have been bred from them, and a milch cow is now (1833) in calf by the bull.

SUMMARY.

Late from Europe. London papers of the 15th, and Liverpool of the 16th of March, have been received at New York by the packet ship Europe. Their contents are of very little interest. Mention is made of some disturbances at Madrid, of which the Royalist volunteers are said to be the authors, but whether they were of a serious nature or not does not appear.

Constantinople, Feb. 11. Matters here have again taken a serious turn, which visibly embarrasses the Porte. It was hoped that the stipulations with Russia were forgotten, and would not again be mentioned, but this was a mistake. The English Government renews its pretensions, at least so it is strongly reported in the higher circles at Pera; it seems to make it a point of honor, and is said to have demanded of the Porte to renounce the engagements into which it has entered with Prussia. At first no credit was given to this news, but it seems to be true—after the first fruitless attempts, England is said to have assumed a more decided tone, and to have peremptorily required the Sultan to come to a resolution, which he will not and cannot do unless obliged.

Polari, alias Carrera, was found guilty on the 10th March, of the robbery of the jewels of the Princess of Orange, and condemned to stand on a scaffold at the Hague for half an hour, to be confined for 12 years in a house of correction,and to the payment of costs.

From Canton. Capt Putnam of the brig Nabob from Canton, informs us that the season there had been very sickly, but was much more healthy when heleft. Those who had been sick were fast recovering. There was no news of any interest since the Clematis sailed.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

Horrible Catastrophe.—We learn from Gloucester, that about 10 or 12 days ago, a labouring man of the man of the name of Walker a widower, with four children, living in the lower part of that county, went out to spend the evening at a neignbor's a few miles off, previous to which he put the children to bed and locked up the house. Before his return, the house took fire (in what manner is unknown) and dreadful to relate, all four of the children perished in the flames, before assistance could reach the spot. A family living about a mile distant, seeing the blaze, hastened to it, and reached the burning pile just in time to catch a glimpse, through one of the windows, of the eldest boy, (about 12 years of age) in the act of bearing his little sister towards the window, and in the same moment to witness the spectacle of the falling in of the roof, and the overwhelming of all in the mass of blazing ruins! But the tale of wo ends not here: the father rushed forth exclaiming—"I will find my children! They shall not be separated from me!" Several days had elapsed, and no tidings were heard of him. At the date of our information it was generally believed that the unfortunate man had terminated his existence—probably by drowning himself in York river, near the margin of whihc the tragical scene occurred. *Norfolk Herald.*

Melancholy Affair. On the morning of the 6th inst. Josiah Buckland, a boy about 13 years of age, was found in a field a mile and a half east of this village, shot through the body. It appears that this boy and another by the name of Moses C. Elliot, had on Saturday, the day previous, resorted to this field for the purpose of shooting at a mark with a pistol, and while there that Josiah was shot by the other boy. The wounded boy was left in the field through the night, a period of 21 hours, and when found by an elder brother in the morning, he was extremely weak from the loss of blood and the effect of the cold, but perfectly rational and told all the particulars of the transaction. The boys were both sons of respectable parents living in this village, and we forbear to give further particulars as we understand the case is to undergo a legal investigation. The wounded boy is alive yet, but there is no hope of his surviving long.—*Hampden Whig.*

Destructive Fire.—It is just a year ago this very day, since we had to notice the great loss sustained by Col. Black and others in this town, of Piers, Boom, Logs and Mill Dam across the river just above this Village, by an unparalleled freshet we had at that time. It is now our painful duty to notice the loss of Col Black's entire Mill establishment, which was destroyed by fire, on Friday morning last. It consisted of four Saw Mills, Grist Mill, Fulling and Carding Mills, Clapboard Shingle and Lath Mills. The fire was discovered between one and two o'clock A. M. by Mr Bowers who immediately gave the alarm by ringing ing the bell &c. The citizens assembled very promptly, and although every exertion was made by Mr Bowers and the young men of the village to save part of the property, the fire had made such progress before it was discovered, that we are sorry to say, that very little of value could be saved. The loss of last year fell heavily upon Col Black, and was felt but little by the inhabitants as the mills were got in operation again in

a few weeks; but we apprehend this dreadful calamity will be severely felt by every family in this town, and indeed in every town on this river. It may be proper to observe that the fire broke out in the saw Mills, in which there had not been a gate started this season, and there is no building so near as to have endangered the mills. How they caught fire is yet a mystery. *Ellsworth Adv.*

Death of a Giant.—The Taunton (Eng.) Courier contains an account of the death and funeral of Joseph Neal Sewell, the Lincolnshire giant who was born at Horncastle, in 1805. He had been depenping on parish relief until a few month past, when an inhabitant of Taunton undertook to exhibit him, in conjunction with a Somersetshire dwarf. Sewell died on the 4th inst at Swansea; and his remains were interred in the church yard of Taunton St. Mary Magdalen. He had a great horror of anatomical operations after death; and his exhibitioner, in deference to his wish refused many lucrative offers for his body, and had quick lime thrown into the grave. The dwarf, thirty seven inches high, and weighing sixty etght pounds only, followed as chief mourner to the funeral. The deceased was seven feet four inches high, and weighed thirty seven stone, or five hundred and eighteen pounds. Sewell's dress required five yards of broadcloth for his coat, five yards of cloth and lining for his waistcoat, seven yards of patent cord for his trowsers, his shoes were fourteen inches and a half long, and six inches and a half wide.

*Great fire in Bangor!*Passengers in the stage from Bangor yesterday, inform of a great fire in that city on Monday night, which destroyed seventeen buildings. The fire broke out in a stable in the vicinity of the Exchange, which building was considerably damaged, though not consumed. Some of the buildings destroyed are understood to have been valuable. We have not been able to obtain much of the particulars.—Kenne. Jour.

Consumption of Tea in England. Some idea of the consumption of tea in England, may be formed from the fact that the East India Company have determined to put up *nine million* pounds at each of their quarterly sales, during the present year.

For the Maine Farmer.

Mr. Editor—The exercise of riding on Horseback is one that combines utility with pleasure. It is athletic and noble, and should be practised by both sexes, much more than it is. In a party consisting of both ladies and gentlemen the other day, the old and often argued dispute on which side of the lady the gentlemen should ride was brought up. Some were for one side and some for another. One thought that the *left* must be *right* and the *right wrong*. Now, Mr. Editor, I am one of those stiff fellows who endeavor to make fashion bend to right, and *I* of course, instead of placing myself to the right of the lady put the lady to the right of myself, and if that makes the *left right*, so be it—it is putting things to *rights*, and surely I had rather keep the ladies the *right* side of me than myself the *right* side of the ladies. It is more natural and convenient. The *right* hand is more quick in its operation, (probably from habit) than the left. It is more convenient therefore to be in a situation to use that hand to the best advantage. It is more convenient to help the lady off the horse or upon it. It is more convenient to render her any assistance desired. And above all, Mr. Editor, it is vastly more convenient in conversing with the lady to look upon her countenance and enjoy the light of her beauty, and behold the bright and sunny beams of her eyes. Venus and Cupid! I wouldn't be on the off side and loose such enjoyments for all the diamonds in Golconda.—What! take an airing with a lady and be doomed to take the right side of her horse and lose the pleasure and satisfaction of beholding her face! Why, Sir, I had as lief burrow upon the North side of the topmost pinnacle of the Himaleh mountains in winter, as be doomed to such a cold and distant situation.

I shall therefore, Mr. Editor, always place myself on the left of the lady, for fashion or no fashion, etiquette or no etiquette, it is the *right* side to me.

Right and Left. * * *

MARRIAGES.

In China, Joseph F. Saunders, of Palermo, to Miss Jane F. Patten.

In Vassalboro', Mr *A*lvin Bragg, of *C*hina, to Miss Sarah F. *R*ichardson, of *W*inslow.

In Litchfield, Mr John Curtis, of Hallowell, to Miss Matilda Tapley.

In Etna, Mr John Bean to Miss Sarah *B*ean.

DEATHS.

In Jay, *A*pril 1, Mrs. Joanna Nelson, aged 87, formerly of Middleborough, Mass.

In Bangor, *M*rs. Nancy B. wife of Mark L. *H*ill, Jr. Esq. aged 23 years 5 months.

In China, Mrs. Mary Jane, wife of Mr John Haskell, aged 29 years, and her child, aged 7 days. Mr *W*illiam *A*llen, a Revolutionary soldier, aged 78.

In Monmouth, April 12, Mr. William Titus, in the 83d year of his age, formerly of Seahonk, Mass. [Pawtucket and Providence papers requested to insert the above.]

LIST OF LETTERS

*R*emaining in the Post Office at Winthrop, April 1, 1834.

Alden Austin	Packard Eliphalet
Andrews Hannah S.	Packard Ebenezar
Barrows John	Perkins Luther
Buswell James	Perkins Azel
Benson Charles	Perkins Nathaniel
Blake Sophia *P.*	Palmer Joseph
Crocket Miss. Care of Wm C. Fuller Esq.	Parker Levi
Chute Angus	Philbrook Charles
Currier Sarah	Rockwood Louisa
Curtis James	Sturtevant Noah (2)
Fairbanks H. W.	Stone John
Foster Otis Jr. (2)	Shaw Jotham
Foster Nathan	Simpson Ezekiel
Gennas Benjamin	Staples Persis. Care of Elias Whiting
Gould Catharine	Stanley Lemuel a
Gilson Charles	Sturtevant Abish E. L.
Holbrook Salvin	Sweetser Sylvina
Hawes Mary Francis	Titus James
Holmes Sarah	Thompson Eliza
Hayward Daniel	Whiting Nathaniel
Hewey Martha	Whiting E.
Holmes *I*saac C.	White Moses (2)
Howard Oakes	White Samuel
Jackson *I*saac	Whitney Samuel
Kelley E. W.	Wing Levi B.
Lambert Hannah	Wing Jno. O.
Lambert Gideon	Warren David
Lancaster Thomas	Wood Thomas C.

GEORGE W. STANLEY, P. M.

Guardian's Sale.

PURSUANT to a license and authority from the Court of Probate, held in Augusta, within and for the County of Kennebec, on the second Monday of April, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty four, will be sold at private sale, on Monday the nineteenth day of May next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, at the dwelling house of John G. W. Coolidge, Innhold, in said Winthrop, certain real estate of George *A*lbert Hayward, minor child of *A*lbert Hayward, late of Winthrop, in said County of Kennebec, deceased, situated in said Winthrop, and described as follows, to wit: One piece bounded on the east by the Pond called Narrows' Pond, on the north ay Issacher Snell's land, on the west by a road leading from said Snell's house to Daniel Haywards, and on the south by land of Oren Shaw; being the *H*omestead farm of the said deceased.—*A*lso one other piece situate in said *W*inthrop, bounded on the east by said road, and on the south by land of Dudley Todd, on the west by land of said Snell, and on the north by the County road and by land of said Snell. The aforesaid lands are subject to the said George's Mother's right of Dower therein. Terms of sale will be made known at the time and place of sale.

Winthrop, *A*pril 16, 1834. { OREN SHAW, *Guardian.*

LIST OF LETTERS

*R*emaining in the Post Office at *W*ayne, March 31, 1834

Doct. Thomas Brigham, Lemuel *B*artlett, Gilman Buswell, John Dexter, Levi Jennings, Jeremiah Dummer Jr. Lorinday Norris, *B*enjamin Norris, Wilham *R*aymond, Edmund Philips, Jabez Gould, Cornfort Smith, Enock Swift.

HENRY W. OWEN, Post Master.

POETRY.

For the Maine Farmer.

Ye highly favored sons of Maine,
The land of frosts and snow,
Why do ye sigh and thus complain?
Whence do your sorrows flow?

"Ah! we would wish," methinks you say
"A gentler, warmer clime,
A brighter sun to cheer the day
And mark revolving time.

"We want a land, where frosts and snows
Abound not half the year,
Where milder breezes gently blow
Nor frosts in Spring, appear.

"We would not live where lofty hills,
With cragged rocks abound,
Where howling storms with terrors fill'd,
And fierce winds whistle round."

Well; I have seen a warmer clime,
Where softer breezes blow'd,
The sun that marked revolving time,
With heat intensely glowed.

I've seen a land where lofty hills,
Did not offend the sight,
Nor the wild scenes of dashing rills,
Adorn a mountain's height.

Nor ledge, nor rock, of aspect rude
To mar the landscape fair,
Where ever in those regions viewed,
Or far between, or near.

But swamps and marshes wide were there,
Nor were they far between—
A damp and pestilential air
Swept o'er each verdant scene.

In stagnant waters most impure
The serpent basking lay,
Whose poisonous fangs infixed, were sure
Destruction to his prey.

No pleasant cooling Spring to please
Or raise the blush of health,
The freshness of the mountain breeze
Could not be bought for wealth.

Would you my friend exchange your lot,
Your rugged soil, for theirs?
Go then and leave your humble cot
And seek their wealth and cares.

My choice is fixed. The mountain air
I'd rather still inhale,
And sip pure water clear and fair
From springs that never fail.

Peru, April 8, 1834. J. H. J.

VAGARIES OF WIT. That property of the mind ycleped *wit*, often shows itself in queer forms. The following superscription of a letter, came to the post office in this town the other day.

"Please Mr. Postmaster, pass this along
To the land of Jack Downing. It can't go wrong.
To the village of *W*inthrop, the fairest in Maine,
*W*here Lawyers and Doctors are plenty as rain;
Then give it to one ANGUS CHUTE Esquire,
*W*ho'll shortly appear for this to enquire."

MISCELLANY.

For the Maine Farmer.

MR. HOLMES:—Passing incidents afford many invaluable lessons of instruction. He who does not avail himself of the instructions offered by every day's experience, looses a source of instruction, which if rightly improved, would unvail the hidden mysteries of nature, develope the whys and wherefores of philosophy, and open to men's minds, actions and characters.

Not many months ago I had occasion to visit the pleasant village from which issues that day beam, the Maine Farmer, diffusing light and knowledge among the agriculturists of our country. Business called me into a shop opposite the hotel. After exchanging civilities with the agreeable little master of the shop, I was very politely accosted by a Mr. Banter, the fineness of whose cloth and the stiffness of whose dickey I honestly thought entitled him to my politest bow and scrape. There was a little fellow present, whose rustic attire brought him somewhat in debt to me for a half suppressed 'how d'ye do?' His name, as the sequel will show, was Love Labor.

Presently Mr. Banter challenged one of the company to swap watches with him for $2,00, and the challenge was accepted. Mr. Banter looked confused—said he had not the money just then—had only FOPE in the morning, but had rolled in the bowling alley all day and had gained two and three pence—tried to borrow the money—offered to give his note, and finally backed out by offering to go across the street to the tavern and treat. I began to suspect that my alamode cap-a-pie gentleman was not all he appeared to be, and that in your village it was impossible to know a complete gentleman by his exterior deportment.

Before I had concluded my business one of your substantial Winthrop farmers entered in quest of $75,00 to pay a demand which became due before he could turn his stock and produce to the best advantage. Mr. Love Labor sheeted over the cash at a minute's warning, without coming to the bottom of his purse, took the farmer's note 'on demand and interest,' 'as good as gold,' and went about his business. I was told that he was a prudent, industrious fellow, who had earned and put at interest his hundreds, and who promised to be something in the world.

I was pleased with this incidence, for it showed that we too often assume dress and external deportment as the criterion upon which to determine the character and condition, when we should look at the conduct—to the motives which induce to action, and to the principles which govern men's lives.

I would just ask, sir, whom you consider more reputable, the young man who loiters about the streets, stores, taverns and bowling alley, and wears superfine broad cloth every day, or he who steadily pursues some honorable and profitable vocation, dresses agreeably to his employment, and takes care to husband the dollars and cents to good advantage? Who bids fairer to make a wealthy and respectable citizen, the young man who spends all or he who saves all? And whom would the young ladies of your town sooner choose for a partner in life, the dandy who spends his money in superfluous dress, and his time in idleness, or he who bids fair to gain a good living by honest industry? TRUTH.

KEEPING A JOURNAL. The N. E. Farmer recommends keeping a regular account of the business and events of every day, even to the weather—the periods of breeding, fattening, and slaughtering—the amount of meat and all other products—the time and labor, particularly hired labor, bestowed on the different operations, with the period of commencing and finishing each, noting the location, extent, and state of the several fields, crops, &c. From such records various calculations and useful comparisons can be made. Our professions have tested the advantage of such a system, not excepting the plowmen of the deep; and I recollect with pleasure that my father, who had been a seaman, continued his "log-book" on the farm, marking with particular exactness the changes of the wind, as well as the farming occurrences. I derived much amusement as well as profit from keeping a log-book of my own, which contained a faithful entry of every thing relating to the garden, even to the number of cucumbers and ears of corn on particular patches, with careful allowance for waste occasioned by pigs and squrrels, so that I might form a correct estimate of the product. With few advantages of education—without so much as having written a familiar letter previous to the age of 17 or 18—yet by this early habit of journal keeping I became accustomed to expressing my thoughts on paper, and the transition to other forms of writing was perfectly easy. LOVEREIGHT.